

Math 150: To Infinity and Beyond

Final Project

Goal: write a scholarly, well-researched expository paper on a topic of your choosing related to Mathematics, its influence and the historical conditions of its production.



Since the beginning of the term, we have studied several aspects of Mathematics, Logic and the historical and philosophical conditions in which they have appeared and evolved. It has hopefully become clear that, in spite of being concerned with abstractions, Mathematics and its progress are subject to the influence of all aspects of the life of the human beings involved in their production.

As your final project for the course, you will write an expository essay on a topic of your choosing. You can choose to write on a purely mathematical topic, a biographical essay, a discussion of selected sociological aspects of Science or something entirely different, as long as you can justify a connection with what we have studied.

Each of the following steps is an individual assignment, due by a specific date and graded independently.

Step 1

Think about several topics. You may base your choice on something that we have studied in class or that you read in Logicomix or somewhere else. Your topic must be connected to Mathematics in a broad sense but it is not required to contain a technical component.

Format: Your proposal should take the form of a Beamer presentation of 5 slides or more.

Due date: 11/06

Grade: 20 pts

Step 2

Once your topic is chosen, you should continue to research it, identify the sources that you intend to use. At this point, you will prepare an outline and bibliography for your essay. This should include your working thesis for the paper, which clearly articulates your position / argumentation. Your outline needs to show the direction of your paper and the reader should be able to grasp the content of your whole paper from this outline. *Most of your research must be done by this point in time.*

Format: Prepare a detailed outline of your paper and a bibliography using L^AT_EX.

Due date: 11/18

Grade: 30 pts

Step 3

Having received feedback on your outline and bibliography, you will write a first version of your paper.

Format: The draft of your essay should be complete (at least 10 pages with our template).

Due date: 12/02

Grade: 20 pts

Step 4

Having received feedback on your draft, you will revise it and submit the final version of your essay.

Due date: 12/12

Grade: 10 pts